

Introduction to the Philosophy of Human Person

**Quarter 1 – Module 8:
The Human Person As An
Embodied Spirit**

Lesson

8

**Evaluation of One's Own
Limitations and the
Possibilities for Our
Transcendence**

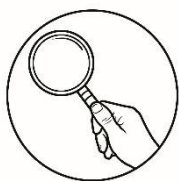


What's New

In doing philosophy, the basic thing that you have to do is to know yourself as we have learned from Socrates. As you wonder about who you really are as embodied Spirit, let's see Pythagoras' classification of people.

According to Pythagoras (c. 570—c. 495 B.C.E), there are 3 kinds of human persons in this world (iep.utm.edu):

1. Lovers of pleasure – These are people who spend most of their lives eating, sleeping, playing (sports, computer games), browsing their social media accounts (e.g. Facebook);
2. Lovers of success – These are people who spend most of their lives studying, reading books, pursuing success; and
3. Lovers of wisdom – These are people who spend most of their lives gaining knowledge by reading great books, loving God, doing good things, being grateful in life, being forgiving to others, loving the true, good and beautiful.



What is It

The Human Person as an Embodied Spirit

The perennial philosophy (coined by Leibniz) universally recognizes that human has access to the Divine, that Spirit is found within a human person, and we are called to render mercy and compassion to all (Wilber, 1998). The human person's possibilities for his/her transcendence can be best evaluated through St. Bonaventure's 3 modes of knowing that deal with the body, mind, spirit dimensions of a human person (Wilber, 2001). The term **transcendence** means going beyond a limit (britannica.com/topic/transcendence).

The 3 Modes of Attaining Knowledge (Based on Wilber's (2001) Eye to Eye)

1. Body: The Sensory Experience

Our body can limit what we can do by getting sick and dying. But our body opens us to the possibilities for our transcendence by gaining valid knowledge. The sensory experience is a method for gaining knowledge in the realm of the five senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell and taste. It is a scientific method that deals with verifiable knowledge that simply look and experiment at the natural world.

Galileo's Scientific Experiment

In 1600, a person named Galileo Galilei went up on the Pisa Tower and dropped two objects--one heavy, one light-and they hit the ground at the same time.

The proposition that "heavier objects fall faster" is disproved. All objects (in a vacuum) fall at the same rate of acceleration, see Figure 3.

Induction is the formation of general laws on the basis of numerous specific instances (a scientific process systematically proposed by Francis Bacon).

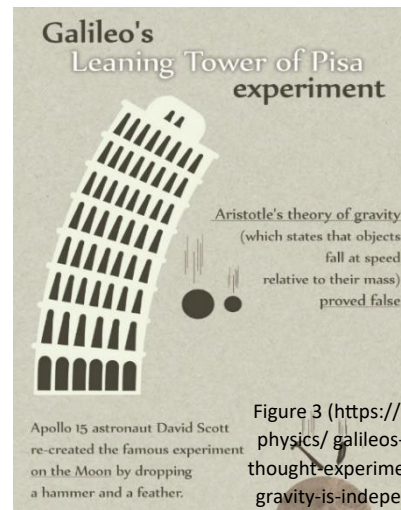


Figure 3 (<https://medium.com/intuitive-physics/galileos-leaning-tower-of-pisa-thought-experiment-acceleration-due-to-gravity-is-independent-of-d8c5cf5cf1d>)

In Galileo's inductive scientific experiment, he discovered the law of gravity shows that all objects (in a vacuum) fall at the same rate of acceleration.

In transcending the body, we move to the power of the mind.

2. Mind: The Use of Reason

We refer to the mind as the human reason. Reason transcends a mere sensory experience. With our mind, we see ideas and think logically through our human faculty of memory, reason, and will. Here are examples of using reason in imagination, logic and exercise of will:

I. Using Reason in Imagination

When we use of mind in imagination, it can picture sensory objects or events not immediately present, and thus transcend the body's imprisonment in the simply present world.

Activity 6.

- A. What gift do you want to receive on your birthday?
- B. What do you want to achieve at the end of this school year?

II. Using Reason in Logic

When we use our mind to think logically, it can internally operate upon sensorimotor objects, and so transcend actual motor sequences.

Logic: The Art of Reasoning (Taken from Kelley, 2014)

In logic, reasoning is a process of thought to make inferences. It starts with available information, then makes inference based on that information. Inference means to draw conclusion.

For example, a car does not start but the lights still work, you can infer that the problem is not a dead battery, but something else.

With logic, we learn to think critically by discussing ideas by presenting reasons and evidence for or against them. Critical thinking requires objectivity by staying aligned with the facts which should guide our thinking to know the truth and by giving a fair hearing to the evidence and arguments for the other side.

What is a proposition?

- It is a complete thought, expressed in a complete sentence.
- It is a statement that it is either true or false.

An example of a proposition: Rivers in Taiwan flow downhill.